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Siner Family

Historically

Community Affairs File

Speaking

OCT 3 1978

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



The year of 1816 has been fixed as the real beginning of the grand movement of pioneers to what is now Vigo County, but was known as Knox County, then Sullivan County, before 1818.

At least 33 veterans of the American Revolution have some direct connection with the early years of Vigo County. Born in far scattered places, they entered the army, fought for the colonies' freedom from England's tyranny, and then moved on west to take up bounty lands and become Hoosier pioneers.

Many descendants of BENJAMIN SINER have worked all their lives trying to prove the military service of this man in the Revolutionary War, but to no avail. He is not listed in the DAR Patriot Index, nor in O'Byrne's Roster.

Family letters of his grandchildren, with memories clouded by time of what they had heard their parents tell of their grandfather, and what they could remember (or believed they could remember) are in my files.

One such letter states, "A blacksmith and wagon maker by trade, he could make a plow with a wooden mould board equal to steel in the present day."

Family tradition has it that Benjamin Siner (or Signer) was born near London, England, and came to this country at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. Some accounts give his age at 16 years, making his birth in 1760. He is supposed to have enlisted in Culpepper County, Virginia, and served eight years.

All accounts tell of his being in the Battle of Cowpens and at the surrender of Cornwallis. Another letter says, "His duties while in service was as gunman. He fired the cannon."

Siner is alleged to have returned to England to marry Mary "Polly" Malladay (also spelled Maldery, Maladay, etc.)

His known children were Frances (Fanny) Siner, born 1797 in Virginia, who married Eli St. Clair in 1812 in Kentucky; James Siner, born 1806 in Virginia, who married Matilda Evans; Hugh Lawson Siner, born 1811 in Virginia, who married Ruhama Welch; and John M. Siner, born 1822

in Nelson County, Ky., who married Rebecca Pound.

Benjamin Siner died in August, 1826, and his estate was probated in the Vigo County Court. Land for a cemetery was given to the Union Church by the Siner family before his death.

Abstracts show the land lying in the northeast quarter of Section 18, Township 10, Range 8. Four minor children of Benjamin and Polly were lawful heirs of the land appraised at \$100, but sold for \$88 at the advice of Joseph Liston, guardian, to the highest bidder, Moses Pierson, on March 29, 1833.

One acre, 92 1/2 perches, was included within the graveyard, according to Vigo County Record Book, Vol. 1, page 50. Deed Records Book 4, page 262, shows the deed signed by Eli Sinklear and Fanny, Joseph Liston, guardian, and by other children: James Siner, Nelson, Siner, William Curry, who had married Clemsy Ann Siner, and John Hodges, who had married Ally Siner.

Benjamin Siner's widow, Polly, married William Harris, of Fairbanks, Ind. Siner's estate was finally settled in January, 1831. There are 217 separate references to the same Siner in one county history alone, but no proof of his Revolutionary War service.

Tradition has it that the children of Benjamin Siner planted a burr oak seed at the grave, and it grew into a very large tree. During World War II, it was cut down for lumber, but the huge stump, five to six feet in diameter, is still there to mark the site.

The sixteen-foot log was taken out, but the rest was left to be cleared out, and poison ivy soon covered all in the Old Brown Cemetery, or Union Baptist Cemetery, across the road from the little church. I have photographs of the stump and gravesite taken in 1959.

DANIEL SOESBE (also spelled Solsby, Solsbe, Soesby, etc.) was born April 15, 1755. He enlisted September, 1776, for three months, but served three years as a private in Capt. Van Swearingen's company, Col. Macey's Eighth Pennsylvania Regiment, and was discharged at Fort Pitt in 1779. Later this company was at-

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tached to Col. Morgan's Rifle Regiment.

In 1781, he married Rachel Bircham (1765-1844) and had eleven children. They were John, 1782; Susannah, 1785; Margaret, 1787; Daniel Jr., 1789; Rachel, 1791; Mary, 1794; Sarah, 1795; Samuel, 1797; Martha, 1799; William, 1801, and Asenath, 1803.

Rachel died Feb 8, 1844, aged 78 years, and Daniel died March 4, 1841, aged 85 years. Both are buried in Hull Cemetery, located in the southwest part of Section 21, Township 11, Range 9, in Honey Creek Township. His grave is marked with a government tombstone.

Proof of his military service is found in his Pension Claim W 9666, allowed in 1832.

Some additional family information has been found. His daughter, Rachel, married Hezekiah Harbert, and their son, Solomon Harbert, married Amadine Watson. The Harbert's daughter, Lucinda, married William Henry Clark, and their daughters entered the DAR on the eligibility provided by their greatgrandfather, Daniel Solsbee.

The March 27, 1841 issue of the WABASH COURIER contains the obituary notice: "Died on the fourth day of March, 1841, at his residence in Honey Creek Township in this county, Mr. Daniel Soesbe, in the 86th year of his age. He served three years as a soldier in our Revolutionary struggle and bore an active part in the scenes of that trying period. He emigrated to Shelby County, Kentucky, soon after the Revolution and there underwent all the difficulties and privations incident to Indian warfare. For a number of years, he has resided in Vigo County and leaves behind him a good name as a legacy to his children. He was an exemplary member of the Baptist Church."

On May 27, 1928, his grave in Hull Cemetery was officially marked with a white marble government tombstone. Ceremonies were conducted by Fort Harrison Chapter, DAR.

Next month's column will tell of William Bildad Soule, Daniel Stringham and James Taylor...

~~Revolutionary Soldiers (T.H.)~~

Historically

Community Affairs File

Speaking

TS DEC 5 1976

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



This column concludes the twelve-part series of the biographical sketches of the Revolutionary War veterans who had some direct connection with the early history of Vigo County, Ind. If readers have missed any of the previously published columns they may contact the writer and learn where to obtain all of them in published form.

GENERAL JOHN THOMAS was a Captain in the Revolutionary War. He was born April 10, 1763, in Frederick County, Virginia, and died in Vigo County, Indiana, on Oct. 16, 1838.

He married first Susannah Hodgen in Virginia, and patented lands on the Green River as early as 1786. He was one of the four Major Generals of the Kentucky Militia in the War of 1812.

After the death of his first wife in Larue County, Kentucky, he married her half-sister, Mrs. Rebecca Hodgen Keith, in 1831. Following this marriage, they resided for a time at her home on a farm near Indian Creek in Floyd County, Indiana, some five miles from New Albany.

After her death, he removed the family to Washington County, Ind. Two years later he moved to the farm of his son, Owen, in Vigo County, nine miles from Terre Haute, where he died about 1838.

Besides his son, Owen, General Thomas had the following children by his first wife: Isaac, who married Polly Watts and died in 1827 in Hardin County, Ky.; Robert

Hodgen, who married Letitia Miller; Henry, who married Sally Thomas; Hardin, who married Sarah Larue; Joseph, who went to Illinois; and Hezekiah, who married Lucretia Thomas.

The father of General Thomas was given as Owen, and his mother was Mary Hardin, the daughter of Major John Hardin of George's Creek, Pa. Another source gives his father as Henry Thomas, born about 1738, and died 1804 in Hardin Co., Ky. Henry was listed in the Halifax County, Va., tax lists of 1785.

Both wives of General Thomas, Susannah and Rebecca, were the daughters of John Hodgen.

General Thomas lies buried in Old Brown (Union Baptist) Cemetery. The original tombstone's worn inscription reads: "General John Thomas, Commander of the Kentucky Troops at New Orleans in 1815."

The Kentucky State

Historical Society was able to furnish the following information about his military service. The three Kentucky regiments which were organized for the New Orleans campaign in October, 1814, were commanded by Major General John Thomas. He had served in the Revolution under Capt. Robert Ferrel, Major Lowder, Col. Zachariah Morgan, Gen. George Rogers Clark, in Pennsylvania and Virginia in 1781. In 1782, he served under Capt. John Vantress and Col. Floyd.

Appointed a Captain of a company in the 2nd Regiment of Kentucky Mounted Militia in 1812, he was promoted to Lieut. Colonel a few weeks later. There were no full Colonels in the Volunteer service at that time. At the battle of New Orleans, he was in command of all Kentucky regiments.

WILLIAM THOMAS was born in 1754 in Virginia. He enlisted Feb. 17, 1776, and engaged in the battles of Trenton, Germantown and Brandywine, serving with the 5th Virginia Militia as a private soldier under Capt. Andrew Russell. Proof of this military service is found in the official War Department records.

He married Margaret Marshall, and they had the following children: Joseph, who married Polly Chambers; Abijah, who married Nancy Hansbrough; William, unmarried; Rebecca, who married Samuel Chambers; Nancy, who married Joseph Liston; Emmett, who married James Pogue; Elizabeth, who married James Wilkens; Polly, who married Joseph French; and Elijah, who married Sally Pound.

William Thomas' wife died Dec. 21, 1824, aged 66 years. He died Jan. 28, 1828, aged 74 years. Both lie buried in the Prairie Creek Cemetery located in the northeast part of Section 34, Township 10, Range 10, at Middletown, Ind. His grave is described as No. 1, Lot 72, and there is a government marker.

Listed in the Act of 1818, he was exempt from state and county taxes in 1826. The earliest county record found was the recording of his cattle mark in the 1819 estray records, the same year he was chosen as a grand juror for the county court.

Family records tell of the father of William Thomas who came from Wales and died in the War with Great Britain.

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His wife's name was Emmet Evans.

The Thomas home was a large stone house near Richmond, Va. After serving for seven years under Gen. Washington, he married Margaret Marshall and they moved to Lexington, Ky., and in 1800, to Butler County, Ohio, and in 1811, to near Vincennes, Indiana, and lived in the fort. In 1816, they moved to Vigo County, where he died in 1828. Several of his descendants still live in the area.

JAMES THOMPSON was born about 1763, and died after 1835. Not listed in O'Byrne's Roster, it is not known if he is one of the several veterans of the Revolutionary War of the same name listed in the DAR Patriot Index.

He was listed in the Act of 1832, and was 72 years old in the Pension Report of 1835 and living in Vigo County. Later research by Mrs. O'Byrne shows he lived in Vigo County, but left for Illinois and possibly died there. This has not been proved.

A marriage record in Vigo County, dated Jan. 13, 1821, for a James Thompson and Susan Paddock was found. It was certainly not beyond the realm of possibility this could be the veteran of the Revolutionary War at the age of 58 years marrying again. Or, it could be a son? Or no connection at all? It is a fairly common name.

Anyone having any information about this veteran is invited to contact the writer.

Time, weather, vandalism and so-called progress are rapidly eroding our pioneer cemeteries. In the future, searchers may not be able to locate and read these grave markers.

To come face to face with an ancient tombstone inscribed with the name of a man born before the American Revolution takes one back in time with a truly emotional impact. During the Bicentennial, communities all over the country have been locating and marking graves of these veterans, but there will be many not found and lost to history forever.

It has been said, "A man who is not proud of his ancestry will never leave anything for which his posterity may be proud of him."

And Daniel Webster said, "Those who do not look upon themselves as a link connecting the past with the future do not perform their duty to the world."

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Historically Speaking

Revolutionary Soldiers (T.H.)

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Community Affairs File

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During the American Bicentennial Year of 1976, the first Sunday of each month will be devoted to biographical sketches and information about the Revolutionary soldiers connected with the early history of Vigo County.

The American Revolution is one of the most important and inspiring events in the whole history of mankind. It gave independence to the English colonies in North America and hope to oppressed people everywhere.

All American citizens should know something about it. They ought to know not only what caused it and what the Revolutionary fathers were fighting for, but also something about the lives of these brave soldiers after the war was over.

We learned of CALLOM BAILEY from an obituary published in the WABASH COURIER of Feb. 18, 1843 — "Died near Glasgow, Barren County, Ky., on the 30th of December, 1842. Callom Bailey, aged 104 years, 5 days, a soldier of the Revolution, and father of Major C. Bailey, of this place."

One source relates that a Cincinnati firm, Bailey, Green & Bailey, sent a stock of goods to Vincennes and on to Fort Harrison in 1815. In July, 1816, Gov. Posey issued a license to trade with the Indians "at or near Raccoon Creek" to Bailey & Gilbert.

His son, Major Callom H. Bailey, served as County Recorder from 1859 to 1863, and was appointed deputy auditor in May, 1861. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, dying of pneumonia in March, 1868.

The Revolutionary veteran, Callom Bailey, was included in the Vigo County list because of his early activities here, even though later in life he returned to an earlier home in Kentucky and died with his family.

JAMES BARNES lived in Vigo County but apparently died in eastern Tennessee after 1838. Other records show he died here in March, 1837, aged 89 years, and was buried in Otter Creek Union Cemetery, located in the northeast part of Section 35, Township 13, Range 9, Grave 2, Lot 281, with no known marker or descendants.

James Barnes was born Dec. 14, 1748, in Northumberland County, Va., on the Potomac river. Entering in 1776, at the age of 18 years, in Mecklenburg County, Va., he served throughout the Revolutionary War. Wanderlust took him to Charlotte County, Va., to North Carolina, Kentucky, and finally to Indiana.

As early as 1818, he was living in Vigo County as his "mark" (hog and cattle brand) was on file at the courthouse in the estray records book.

The same year, he was appointed one of the first associate judges with remuneration of two dollars per day. With Moses Hoggatt, these first associate judges of the circuit court held the first court session in Terre Haute within 30 days of the organization of Vigo County. One county history calls them "two of its sturdy old pioneer farmers, Moses Hoggatt and James Barnes."

On Sept. 3, 1820, there was a land transfer from Jonathan and Letitia Lindley to James Barnes. The land was described as the "south half of Section 12, Township 13, Range 9." Also in 1820, a special term of the probate court was held May 15 at the house of Robert Harrison in Terre Haute by the associate judges, Hoggatt and Barnes.

He served as a grand juror in 1823. In February, 1824, the old bridge over Otter Creek was ordered removed and a new one built. James Barnes, Joseph Evans and George Webster were ordered to contract for same.

For the next five years, there are land transactions on record for James Barnes.

On the Fourth of July, 1825, James Barnes was one of the Revolutionary War veterans honored at a special celebration held in Otter Creek Township. At this time he was 77 years old.

In 1826, the Rev. Aaron Wood began preaching for members of the Methodist Church listed as Barnes, Brown, Dixon, Jackson, Lambert, Wilkes, Ostrander and others. One account states that "as early as 1813, a society of these pioneers held

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Sabbath meetings. John Dixon told of a prayer meeting at Lambert's house when a group of hostile Indians saw them on their knees. Pottawatomie chief told Dixon later at a treaty meeting "We feared the Great Spirit and left." The night before they had massacred settlers south of Honey Creek.

The owner of a 320-acre farm in Otter Creek, James Barnes, applied for a pension in 1832, aged 84, and received it until his death in March, 1837 at the age of 89 years.

In January 1837 an Act of the Indiana Legislature provided for a change in the drainage of Lost Creek. In March, the county commissioners appointed James B. McCall, James Barnes and Jacob Burnap as special commissioners "to cause a survey." They reported the route which was adopted.

Now this is where records cloud the issue. It would have been remarkable for an 89-year-old man to have assisted with the survey in those days of few roads and only horseback as a means of transportation, but perfectly possible, of course. However, with the following records, this writer believes there was a son, or other relative, or even someone not related of the same name who continued to be active in the community after the reported death of James Barnes.

In 1839, a James Barnes attended the Cumberland Road convention held in Terre Haute.

Of one fact we can be sure, James Barnes is not listed in the DAR Patriot Index, nor in O'Byrne's DAR Roster of Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Indiana, which proves none of his descendants (if any) ever had a yearning to join DAR.

Historically Speaking

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

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In the early 1920's, the Indiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution conducted a state-wide research project concerning the soldiers of the Revolutionary War who were known to have spent their last days in Indiana, and who, supposedly, were buried within its borders. It was learned that as many as 1,500 Revolutionary soldiers probably lie buried in Indiana soil.

Clay County resident, Cornelius F. Posson, then president of the Indiana DAR, was elected to locate the graves of Revolutionary soldiers buried in Clay County. He found it to be a most difficult task. The pioneers were buried in private family burial plots on their own farms, and the graves were often marked with rude, sandstone slabs that did not endure. The location of some of the graves had been entirely lost, and some of the ancient family burial plots had passed, with the farms, into other hands, and had been obliterated by the plough.

Other pioneers were found buried in cemeteries that were no longer used, off from the main highways, overgrown with weeds and brambles, and sadly neglected. If the researcher is determined enough, not afraid of snakes and poison ivy, and can brave the entangling myrtle and the stinging briars, he or she may, perhaps, come upon some time-worn tombstone whose faded inscription tells that it marks the last resting place of a patriot of the Revolutionary War.

Of course, some of the veterans had descendants who obtained a durable government tombstone to replace the worn original marker and the inscription in the marble is easily read.

There are several lists of pensioners of the Revolutionary War, and of the 809 names included in the 1835 list of Indiana, only four were for Clay County. They were David Danner, Lawrence Thompson, Benjamin Wheeler and John Williams.

The 1840 list showed seven names for Clay County, including two from the previous list. They were: John Wheeler, Bowling Green township, aged 56 years, Benjamin Wheeler, Washington

township, aged 92 years; Michael Crooks, Jackson township, aged 80 years; Lawrence Thompson, Jackson township, aged 99 years; John Yocum, Posey township, aged 96 years; Richard Cunningham, Posey township, aged 84 years; and David Christy Sr., Perry township, aged 68 years.

The names of John Wheeler and David Christy can be eliminated as they were veterans of the War of 1812. Later research also eliminated John Williams when he was found to be a resident of Floyd County, Ind.

Two other pensioners should be added, however, John Hopper, a resident of Orange County in 1835, and William Oard, a former resident of Parke County.

Many soldiers of the Revolutionary War did not receive pensions, some never having made application, and therefore these lists fall far short of being complete. Barely more than half the veterans appear on the Indiana pension rolls. Five such men can be added to those buried in Clay County. They are Benjamin Bell, Joseph Case, Obadiah Case, Amos Kelly and Latasco LaPerra. This makes 13, but DAR records turned up still another man, Samuel Sampson, so the total now stands at 14, until someone can prove otherwise.

Author William Travis states in his two-volume work, *A HISTORY OF CLAY COUNTY, IND.*: "At a very early day in the history of the county, three Revolutionary soldiers, Benjamin Bell, Obadiah Case and Joseph Case, resided in the northeast part of the county, with in the territory of Van Buren township, who had either died or left the county prior to the census of 1840."

Michael Crooks was residing in Jackson township with James Harland on June 1, 1840. He was 80 years of age at that time.

Richard Cunningham, aged 84 years in 1840, was living with Francis Cunningham in Posey township. He later moved to Ohio.

David Danner enlisted August or September, 1770, for six months service as a private soldier under Capt. Patrick Warson, in Col. Bruce's Maryland Regiment. His home was in Frederick

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County, Maryland, where he was born in March, 1759. In 1833 he applied for a pension from his home in Clay County.

John Hopper seems to have changed his place of residence frequently. In 1835 he applied for his pension in Orange County, Ind. In 1840, he was listed in Martin County, being 93 years of age. One source says that he died in Owen County at the age of 110, and was buried in Zenor Cemetery near Bowling Green.

It should be noted that there are two Zenor cemeteries in Clay County, one just to the south of Bowling Green, and the other just across Birch Creek from Prairie City, directly across the road from the old Prairie City schoolhouse.

The graves of Revolutionary War veterans Lawrence Thompson and Amos Kelly were marked July 4, 1906, by the Clay County commissioners in elaborate ceremonies. The inscription on one tombstone reads: "Revolutionary Soldier Lawrence Thompson of N.C. Aged 108—Martha, his wife, Aged 105"

He enlisted in 1777 for six months service and held the rank of First Sergeant under Capt. Alfred Moore, Col. Moore's North Carolina Regiment. Born 1755 in Dunmore County, Va., he enlisted at Rowan County, N.C. He applied for pension in 1822 from Clay County, Ind. He settled first in Harrison County, Ind., before coming to Clay County.

His children were Frances who married Thomas Wheeler, and John D. who married Elizabeth Elsey. Veteran Thompson died at about 1863. NOTE the account of the 14 Revolutionary War veterans buried in Clay County will be continued next week.

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By DOROTHY J. CLARK



On July 4, 1906, the Clay County commissioners marked the graves of two Revolutionary War veterans, Lawrence Thompson and Amos Kelly, in elaborate ceremonies.

The inscription of one of the tombstones set by the commissioners reads: "Revolutionary Soldier Amos Kelly, Died in 1842, Aged 87 years." Later research turned up the interesting fact that in marking the grave of Amos Kelly the authorities were not fully assured that he had given Revolutionary service, but inasmuch as they were marking the grave of Thompson nearby in the same cemetery, they decided to give the man Kelly the benefit of the doubt and mark his grave also.

Latasco La Perra, said to have been a Frenchman, is buried in Zenor Cemetery near Bowling Green.

William Oard enlisted February, 1776 for three months as a Private in Capt. Garret Bond's Company, Col. Jeremiah Jourdon's Maryland Regiment. His record shows two more enlistments in 1780 in Capt John Sanford's Company, Col. Blackburn's and Col. Tipps' Virginia Regiments.

His residences were given as St Mary's County, Maryland, and Prince William County, Virginia. He applied for a pension in 1833 from Adams Township, Parke County, Ind.

Born Sept. 22, 1754, in Charles County, Maryland, he died Sept. 15, 1833, in Parke County, but was buried in the old Hill Cemetery on West National Ave. in Brazil. The lot lies just to the right of the main drive leading in from National Ave and not far from the gate. The exact location was undoubtedly lost due to the cemetery clearing of old tombstones and footstones early in 1930 which were dug out and removed. A bronze tablet was placed by the Indiana SAR and the William Oard Chapter of the DAR.

Benjamin Wheeler enlisted in 1777 for three months as a Private under Capt. Thomas Marshall and Capt. Robert Lemon's companies of Col. Darby Lux's Maryland Regiment. Another enlistment in 1777 was for four months in

Capt. William Philip's company, where he engaged in skirmishes with the Indians. He was born in 1758 in Baltimore County, Maryland. His application for pension in 1833 was made in Clay County, Ind.

Benjamin Wheeler and Lawrence Thompson made application for pension on the same day. They were closely allied by family ties. Thompson's daughter, Frances, married Thomas Wheeler, son of Benjamin Wheeler. This Thomas Wheeler was a soldier in the War of 1812. There are many descendants of patriot Benjamin Wheeler living in Brazil and Clay County. His burial in 1862 was made in the Sloan or Zenor Cemetery.

John Yocum, born 1747 in Virginia, enlisted May, 1780 and served six months as a Private in Capt. George Jackson's Company, Col. Morgan's Virginia Regiment. He later served two months guarding the frontier under Capt. Rowland Thomson. Two of his children were George and Sarah Yocum Horsley.

One source states he lies buried on the John Foulke farm, south of Brazil, and the grave is marked with a stone placed by the county commissioners. Another source states John Yocum lies buried in the old Reiffett family burying ground on the South Forest Avenue Road, two miles south of Brazil. His grave was unmarked in 1920, as were all the graves in that old family plot. What stones were there have fallen over. The old Reiffett burying ground is situated on a knoll at the southwest corner of the crossroads, two miles from Brazil. Just over the fence, the ground was low and marshy with underbrush and small trees. Climbing diagonally through this piece of ground, the SAR searchers reached higher ground and came to the summit of a small knoll, marked by an evergreen tree. This was the site of the ancient burial plot, so nearly obliterated it might not be detected unless searching for it. John Yocum was living in Posey Township in 1840, aged 96 years, when he applied for his pension.

Samuel Sampson, born about 1762, served in the

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Revolutionary War as a Private in a company under Capt. Johnson in the Pennsylvania Line for 15 months. He received 200 acres of land which he sold to Bethuel Covalt. Proof of his military service is found in his pension claim S. 32506, filed in Clay County. Where is he buried?

The reward for the effort in locating and authenticating the grave of some patriot who endured privation and faced death in the cause of those struggling colonists who fought for the preservation of "certain inalienable rights" and for that independence which gave to us this glorious country of ours. To one who loves his country and honors the memory of those who fought for its establishment, there is much satisfaction in this work of reclamation. When the spot has been cleared, the briars and brambles cut away, and a tombstone suitably marks the grave, one had the satisfaction of knowing one has helped save an important part of local history for future generations.

This American Bicentennial year should see many such graves marked, many tombstones set, many Fourth of July ceremonies held in the old graveyards and people more aware of the men who fought to found our country 200 years ago.

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By Dorothy Clark

More information received about soldiers in Revolution

Revolutionary Soldiers (TH)



During the Bicentennial year, one "Historically Speaking" column each month was devoted to the information on the Revolutionary War soldiers known to have lived in Vigo county and the grave locations of those veterans who died here.

Several hundred of the printed booklets about these pioneers were purchased by descendants and history lovers, and a few are still available by contacting this writer.

However, now more information has been received to make the history of these men more complete.

Mrs. Eugene Propst, Route 4, Paris, Ill., wrote concerning Daniel Rhoads, her great-great-grandfather. This Revolutionary War soldier lies buried in Ogden Cemetery, Edgar County, near Paris, in Symmes Township, where he lived after settling in Illinois.

His land located six miles southeast of Paris was deeded by President Andrew Jackson on Oct. 28, 1835. Succeeding generations of the family have lived on this farm and none other than direct descendants have ever lived there.

Mrs. Propst is a member of Madam Rachel Edgar Chapter of DAR because of this ancestor.

Conflicting information had been found showing his burial to be in Pisgah Cemetery, but Mrs. Propst has proven this incorrect.

Daniel Rhoads' second wife, Elizabeth Newman Rhoads, is buried by his side in Ogden Cemetery. Mrs. Propst wondered if his first wife, Eva Faust Rhoads could be buried in Pisgah, and if this could have caused the confusion.

The new DAR Ancestor Roster shows that Vigo County can claim another Revolutionary War soldier. These records show that Henry McBroom, born 1750's in Scotland or Ireland, died in Vigo County in 1825. He was married about 1786 to Nancy Jones, who died in 1842 in Fountain County.

Their 11 children were William, John, Edward, Henry, Elizabeth, Andrew, James Wesley, Nancy, Polly, Roxanna and Sally.

Henry McBroom served in Captain Phillip Albright's Company of Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment commanded by Colonel Samuel Miles.

On September 1, 1776, he was in camp near King's Bridge, according to a descendant who became a member of DAR because of his proven military service.

According to information received from Jay B. Davenport, Anderson, James Taylor, Revolutionary War soldier, is buried in the old Taylor Cemetery in Pierson Township, Vigo County.

His headstone states he died Feb. 20, 1828, aged 80 years. His wife, Nancy, is buried by his side. Her stone gives her date of death as March 19, 1857, aged 79 years, some 30 years younger than

he and probably a later marriage.

According to the late Minnie Taylor Brunker, the granddaughter of James Taylor, he was the son of Zachariah Taylor, and came to Indiana from Nelson County, Kentucky, sometime between 1816 and 1820. Family tradition has it that he originally came from Orange County, Virginia, and was of the same family as the former President Zachary Taylor.

The known children of James Taylor were George, born about 1806 in Kentucky; Jacob, born about 1809 in Kentucky and married Eleanor Whitaker in 1831 in Vigo County (they helped form and build Shady Grove Church in Pierson Township in 1867); Rachel Taylor born about 1810 in Kentucky, married Elijah Whittaker in 1831 in Vigo County; James, born 1816 in

Kentucky; Nicholas born 1820 in Indiana, married Nancy Douglas in Vigo County in 1843.

It is said that Washington Taylor, who married Jane Lawson in 1847, is the son of James, but this has not been proven.

According to family tradition, James Taylor gave the land for the Taylor Cemetery, as well as land for a school and the church near the graveyard. Records show the first Baptist church was formed in Pierson Township in 1824. The minister was Rev. Pierson, and the Taylors and Piersons intermarried and were related as far back as the late 1700's in Nelson County, Kentucky.

Next week's column will continue with new information learned about the Revolutionary War soldiers of Vigo County.

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Hint Revolutionary War veteran buried in unmarked Vigo grave

Community Affairs File

By Dorothy Clark



Last week's column told of new information received on Vigo county's Revolutionary War soldiers, and this column tells of the alleged veteran, Benjamin Siner, who lies buried in the Old Union Baptist Cemetery in Vigo county in an unmarked grave near a grave marked by a large headstone inscribed with the name Thompson.

According to new information received from Jay Bruner Davenport, of Anderson, Indiana, Benjamin Siner enlisted at the age of sixteen in Culpeper county,

Virginia, and served under General Daniel Morgan in the Revolutionary War.

He married Polly Malady on Jan. 23, 1797 in Bedford county, Virginia. They came to Breckinridge county, Kentucky, sometime before 1809, where he owned large tracts of land. However, due to his discouragement over land disputes, he moved to Sullivan county, Indiana, in 1821, and a short time later to Vigo county where he lived east of Pimento until his death in 1829.

His family joined the newly

established Union Baptist church, but Benjamin Siner remained an Episcopalian until he died.

His children were Clemmy, who married William Curry; Fanny, who married Eli St. Clair; Allie, who married William Hodges; Joe; Nelson, who married Desdemona Shelburn; Polly, who married Benjamin Harris; James, who married Matilda Evans; Hugh, who married Ruhama (or Ruhanie) Welch; Benjamin, who married Nancy Coffman; John Maladay, who married Rebecca Pound; and Ancil.

Proof of his military service is still needed.

PIERSON INFO

Mrs. Lois McCammon of Sullivan, Indiana, sent new information about Moses Pierson (1765-1834). He enlisted at the age of thirteen years in the summer of 1778, under the command of Captain Henry Southard, quartermaster department, Somerset county, New Jersey, and drove an army supply wagon.

His pension application states that his mother had died and his father broke up housekeeping and went to Pennsylvania, leaving him on his own in New Jersey. Because he was quite an expert in managing horses, he was advised to enlist.

In the storming of Stony Point, he was in the rear of the army with his wagon when the British took the place and barely escaped capture as a prisoner of war.

At the close of the Revolutionary War, he went to Kentucky and enlisted for one year under Captain Platt to go against the Wabash Indians. He helped build a large fort on the Wabash river which he called "O Post".

After his term of service expired, he returned to Kentucky and married, living

there until moving to Vigo county about 1830.

He applied for a pension on Feb. 10, 1834, and died before the end of the month. His application was rejected for lack of proof of military service as late as 1852.

According to Masters "History of Baptists in Kentucky", Moses Pierson, the second pastor of Cox's Creek Church, was born in New Jersey in 1765 of strict Presbyterian parents. He followed William Taylor to Kentucky in 1784, and soon after married Taylor's daughter.

The book states, "Mr. Pierson was among the first converts baptized into the church. He was ordained to the ministry in January, 1804, and on the death of Mr. Taylor in 1809, was chosen pastor of the church, where he served until 1825.

"Elder Pierson was a very peculiar man and had little education. He was nicknamed 'Old Peradventure' because he used that word so often, but always mispronouncing it. His voice was harsh and unmusical, and yet regardless of all these disadvantages, this pioneer preacher labored twenty years, led in gathering several churches, and baptized many happy converts."

Pierson married Dorcas Taylor (1737-1809) in 1787 in Nelson county, Kentucky. Their children (not in order of birth) were Wyllis (or Willis), Eunice, Rachel, Isaac, Moses, Taylor, Sarah, Mary, Margaret, Elizabeth and John.

The above-named Taylor Pierson's son Clay is the grandfather of Mrs. McCammon who so kindly sent in the family records.

There are still a few copies of the booklet published in 1976 entitled REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS OF VIGO COUNTY, and they are available from the writer, or the Historical Museum.

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Community Affairs File

Historically Speaking

TS NOV 7 1976

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



Soldiers Vigo Co

Of the approximately 250,000 soldiers who fought in the American Revolution, at least 33 had a direct connection with the early history of Vigo County. From Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Massachusetts they came.

They were pretty well divided as to New England and the South, so early Vigo County had a Yankee twang as well as a Southern drawl. At least three of the men were born in the Old Country, in Scotland, Ireland and England. The birthplace of some of the early settlers is unknown.

Family tradition has it that WILLIAM BILDAD SOULE was a drummer boy during the Revolutionary War. He was born Sept. 17, 1766 in Pembroke, Mass., and died Sept. 9, 1820, in Vigo County, Ind.

Married in New York State in the 1790's, Soule's wife, Jemima Butler, was born Sept. 7, 1773 in Massachusetts and died in Vigo County in 1832-33.

For many years, descendants of this man have tried to prove his military service in the Revolutionary War for eligibility in Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution, but without success. The main stumbling block was the fact that they could not prove that William Soule and Bildad Soule were the same person. The name change was understandable in pioneer Hoosier land, and the Biblical "Bildad" became "Bill" or officially "William" in all the early land and other records here.

To make it even more confusing about this alleged drummer boy, county histories have conflicting information. One local source states that William and Almira (Baker) Soules, native of New York, came to Vigo County and settled in Harrison Township in 1816-17 with their grown sons and daughters. This would prove to be Charles William Soules (1796-1857) and Almira Baker Soules (1800-42). Another source states that William Sulls was one of the early settlers of the 1820's in Harris Harrison township.

A biographical sketch of Warren Soules states that he was the son of William Soules, a Revolutionary War soldier. These statements in old county histories are never taken for fact, but only as clues. After all, the biographees paid handsomely for having their flattering life stories printed in the subscription book.

Souls is not listed in O'Byrne's Roster, but there are two of the name listed in the DAR Patriot Index. One was a private from Massachusetts, born 1759, died 1826, and married to a Miss Sampson; the other was a soldier from Massachusetts, born 1739, died 1777, and married to a Miss Briggs. Obviously, these men don't match up with the dates for Bildad.

Local records show a William Souls established his cattle mark in the Vigo County courthouse estray records in 1818, and again in 1822. He sold twenty acres of land in the southeast quarter of Section 14, Township 12, Range 9, to his daughter, Elenor Garber, prior to his death. She had the distinction of being Vigo County's first divorcee.

The estate of William Souls was entered in the October, 1821 term of court. Where is the Revolutionary soldier Bildad Soule buried? Family records indicate he was not buried in a family graveyard anywhere near the little village of Terre Haute. The family never established its own cemetery, and used the public burying ground known as Old Indian Orchard located on the river bank where the Pillsbury plant's visitor parking lot is now.

A wooden marker was dedicated with suitable ceremonies July 4, 1976 for this veteran during the Bicentennial weekend here.

In July, 1974, the Soule Kindred in America held their Indiana reunion here and visited the grave of William Soule in Woodlawn Cemetery. One local newspaper noted that "since the war began in 1776, young Soule as per his birthdate must have been little more than ten years of age when he played for the line of march."

An angled photograph of the weathered tombstone in

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Woodlawn shows a death date of Oct. 10, 1857, which proves this is the grave of Charles William Soules, not the Revolutionary soldier. To make it even more confusing, Woodlawn Cemetery records show the lot was purchased by a William Soules in 1862. Other burials in the family plot were made in 1882, 1893 and 1900. Further information on this veteran would certainly be helpful.

An obituary in the Aug. 14, 1841 issue of the WABASH COURIER tells of another Revolutionary War veteran who contributed his part to the early settlement of Vigo County.

"Died at his residence in Parke County on the 6th instant, in the 76th year of his age, Captain Daniel Stringham, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, and one of the first settlers of Vigo County, having arrived at Fort Harrison immediately after the close of the war. He was born in New York (we believe Orange County) on the 5th of July, 1765, and although quite a youth, entered with ardor the army of the Revolution."

"He was distinguished through life, his kind, urbane and hospitable disposition, and none have died leaving fewer enemies. His son, Commodore Stringham, distinguished himself during the late war in the capacity of Midshipman, and now ranks among the foremost officers of the Navy."

Northwest of Lewis, Ind., in Pierson township, is the old Taylor Graveyard. The cemetery is located in the center of Section 27, Township 10, Range 8. Here lies JAMES TAYLOR whose death in 1828 at the age of 80 years would seem to indicate Revolutionary War service if he were in America at the time of the war, 1776 to 1783.

There are few references to the man in county histories. In 1817, there is a land transfer recorded for James Taylor. Anyone having information about him is invited to contact the writer.

Next month's column completes the Bicentennial year's series and tells of John Thomas, William Thomas and James Thompson...

Historically Speaking

Ts FEB 1 1976

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Ts FEB 1 1976



Tales of western lands were coming back to the colonies after the close of the Revolutionary War. of the fertile soil, fine rivers, virgin forests, wild game in abundance — so hardy men packed up their few belongings and families, if they had them, and started west. Many of these restless, early pioneers were veterans coming out to this part of the country to claim bounty lands.

On Sept. 16, 1776, Congress had passed a resolution promising both commissioned and non-commissioned officers who would enlist in the cause of the Revolution certain "bounty lands" to be taken from the "crown lands" or the Northwest Territory, which now embraces Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and part of Minnesota. At that time, there were no more than 5,000 white people in the entire Northwest Territory.

One of these men was JOSEPH BRADY about whom little is known. Born in 1760 in Johnson County, North Carolina, he enlisted in the North Carolina Militia under Capt. Bryant from his home county; then moved to Roan County, N.C., and again served during the Revolutionary War.

He was married and fathered seven children: Isaac, John, Joseph, James, Rhoda, who married William Anderson; Mary, who married Christopher Acred; and Nancy, who married a Blankenship.

Joseph Brady applied for a pension at the age of 73 years in Vigo County on Aug. 11, 1834, and also Nov. 3, 1834, still aged 73, in Knox County, "formerly of near Vincennes, now of Vigo County."

An affidavit, dated Nov. 14, 1845, Vigo County, of his son, John Brady, administrator, stated that the soldier had lived in Vigo County for 12 years before his death, and before that in Knox County.

The pension application also stated that the soldier after the war moved to Albert County, Georgia, for about five years; to Wilkes County, Ga., for about seven years; to Baldwin County, Ga., for about one year, and to Rutherford County, Tennessee, for 12 to 15 years before coming to Vigo County where he had lived seven years.

There is no mention of Joseph Brady in any of the five county histories here. He is not listed in the DAR Patriot Index nor in O'Bryne's Roster.

Proof of his military service is his Pension Record S.1838 from North Carolina. The date of his death was given as Sept. 6, 1838. Some of the questions needing answers are: where is he buried? are any of his descendants known?

JOHN CALDWELL SR. was born Jan. 21, 1755, in Prince Edward County, Va. One record states he enlisted first in 1776, another in 1779, under Col. Scott, General Nelson, for three month's service in the Virginia Militia. He was drafted in 1780, and again in 1782, for six month's service, and was discharged in 1782. Proof of his military service is found in Pension Claim S.16344. His name is listed in the Act of 1832, aged 83 years.

and in the 1835 Pension Report.

There is nothing to be found of his family other than that copied from his tombstone in the Caldwell Cemetery in Sugar Creek Township. He died Aug. 19, 1838, aged 83 years, 6 months, 28 days. His wife, Jane, lies beside him. She died July 25, 1834, aged 76 years, 7 months, 14 days. The Caldwell Cemetery is located in the center of Section 35, Township 12, Range 10, in Sugar Creek Township.

The only mention in the county histories or county records shows a Jane Caldwell marrying a George Ray on Dec. 3, 1827. Could this have been a relative? At some time, the name was also spelled "Colwell."

The late A. R. Markle, local historian, listed Revolutionary War veteran JACOB COLEMAN as buried in Vigo County, but later research has shown him to be buried in Vermillion County, Ind., instead.

Jacob Coleman was born about 1754 in Virginia. He enlisted in 1776 in Virginia, and served under Col. William Russell, Capt. Benjamin Harrison's company, until 1779. His regiment became the Ninth under Col. John Gibson, and in 1779, he was commissioned Ensign in the Seventh Regiment, and later a Lieutenant. He fought in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and White Marsh.

Proof of his military service can be found in Pension Claim S.35848. The last payment of his pension was made to an attorney for the pensioner on March 9, 1828, at Corydon, Ind. He is thought to be buried in Vermillion County, Ind.

His son, John M. Coleman, and his grandson, Samuel M. Coleman, have been found in later records. A John Coleman was an early preacher in Riley Township. John M. Coleman was in Terre Haute as early as 1816, helped build the first

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courthouse, and was appointed as the first postmaster of Terre Haute in 1817.

To confuse the issue about the Revolutionary War veteran, there are others of the same name in the DAR Patriot Index. Private and Lieut. Jacob Coleman of Virginia was born 1748, died 1828, and married Sarah McCullouch. Private Jacob Coleman of New Jersey was born 1764, died 1835, and married Deborah. Except for the date of birth, the first one listed is the more likely of the two. Since his age was listed as 72 years on the 1829 pension report, that would have made him born in 1748 instead of 1754 as O Byrne's Roster indicates.

Anyone having information about this veteran, his exact place of burial, his family, etc., are invited to contact the writer.

Next month's column will tell of John Coltrin and Walter Dickerson.

Give copy to BRM for history

TS MAR 7 1978

Historically Speaking

Community Affairs File
By DOROTHY J. CLARK



Community Affairs File

When the fighting ended after the Revolutionary War (1776-1783), the new government had no funds with which to pay its heroes—the tired, sick, discouraged, often disabled and homeless soldiers who had won the victory.

Dark months followed, but in 1816, the vast Northwest Territory was ceded to the federal government by the four great states of Virginia, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts "to be used for the common good."

Land was now available, vast areas in the unknown plains beyond the mountains. The soldiers could now be paid. Grants of land in Ohio, Indiana and on west were made to the soldiers—320 acres to private soldiers, 480 acres to 960 acres to officers.

These settlers were not adventurers, but industrious home-seekers who located their lands, built log cabins, raised their families, organized government, and buckled down to the long, hard task of creating a civilization in the wilderness.

The late A. R. Markle, local historian, had always insisted that JOHN COLTRIN was one of the soldiers of the Revolutionary War, but other sources state he was a veteran of the War of 1812. Many such puzzles have been solved by finding the man was a veteran of both wars. However, John Coltrin is not found in the DAR Patriot Index nor in O'Byrne's Roster.

In recorded cemetery records and tombstone inscriptions, there is a John Coltrin buried in the Coltrin Cemetery in the northwest parts of Section 18, Township 12, Range 8, south of Maple Avenue Road, in Lost Creek Township.

The tombstone inscription, copied several years ago, states, "John Coltrin died Mar 28, 1848, aged 55 years, and his wife, Ruth Potter, died Jan. 24, 1859, aged 69 years." Now, either the tombstone inscription was copied incorrectly giving the wrong year, or this is a possible son of the Revolutionary soldier. He would have been born in 1793, long after the War was over.

The pensioner in 1820 was recorded as having died in October, 1828.

In county histories, a John "Cotterin" registered his mark for estray records in 1820. A William Coltrin also registered his mark in that year. William Coltrin sold the northwest quarter of Section 18 Township 12 Range 8, where the cemetery is located, to John Coltrin on June 13, 1820.

The estate of Emma Coltrin went to John Coltrin and William Coltrin in the Nov 5, 1822 court term. Robert Graham and Alban C. Davis were the administrators. Ira

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Coltrin selected in open court John Durkee as his guardian.

Joseph Coltrin was listed as a petit juror in 1823. As late as 1867, the farm land of the poor house was rented to John W. Jackson and John M. Coltrin.

Anyone having further information of this family, military service for John Coltrin during the Revolution, etc., are invited to contact the writer.

WILLIAM DICKERSON, who enlisted in the Revolutionary War in 1776 and was discharged in 1778, is buried in the Dickerson Cemetery in Lost Creek Township. To be exact, in Grave 3, Lot 13, and the cemetery is located in the center of Section 16 Township 12 Range 8. A government tombstone was placed at his grave.

The records show Walter Dickerson was born in Rooksberry, Morris County, N.J., on June 17, 1763. He served as a private in his uncle's company, Capt. Thomas Dickerson, under Major Hutchins in the New Jersey troops.

Dickerson married first Penelope Heaton (1762-1849) in 1785 at Morris Co., N.J. They started west in 1787, following the Cumberland Trail, and settled in Washington County, Pennsylvania, and Butler County, Ohio, before coming to Indiana and settling in 1835 in their chosen home on the hills near where Seelyville, Ind., is now located.

Here they settled down, worked, built their homes and reared their families. And builders they were — log houses for their families, log school houses, and a saw mill on what was later the Paul Kuhn property, and roads and bridges. In 1822, a son-in-law, Graham, built the Otter Creek bridge at a cost to the county of less than \$300. The lumber used was prepared at the Dickerson's saw mill. The early Dickersons were school

teachers, county commissioners, store keepers, judges, postmasters, post-mistresses and road supervisors.

The children of Walter and Penelope (Heaton) Dickerson were: Caleb; Elizabeth, who married Joseph Graham; Samuel, John, who married Rhoda Holland; Ruth; Walter Jr.; Penelope; Martha, who married John S. Tilley; Nancy, who married Matthew Gray; and Daniel.

Walter Dickerson married the second time, but there were no children. His third wife was Sarah Garthwait. He died Oct. 8, 1855.

On May 27, 1929, his grave was officially honored with a white marble government tombstone. Ceremonies were conducted by the Fort Harrison Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. The grave location was described then as "on the Paul Kuhn farm, directly across the road from the Glenn Orphan Home."

All this was made possible by the diligent research and work of DAR member, the late Mrs. Herbert Briggs, who ordered the tombstone and obtained the necessary proof for its approval by the government. The cemetery location now lies in the 226-acre plot planned for Terre Haute's new million dollar municipal golf course near Seelyville, Ind.

Many of the Revolutionary War veterans did not claim their grants, but sold them to wealthy investors or speculators. They needed the money. Often they bought land near their former homes and settled down. More often, they used the money to finance their journey into the new land.

Historically Community Affairs File Speaking

Ts APR 4 1976
By DOROTHY J. CLARK



Ts APR 4 1976

After the close of the Revolutionary War, veterans came by the hundreds, lured by the promises of the great unknown plains, to claim bounty lands. Many came to what is now Vigo county, but was earlier Sullivan County, and before that Knox County, Indiana. They settled down, built homes, helped to found new settlements here, satisfied to see their children located in a place with a hopeful future.

JOSEPH DICKSON was born in Pennsylvania in 1760. In 1779, he enlisted as a private soldier in the Fifth Company of the Eighth Battalion of the Cumberland County Pennsylvania Militia. Records show he subsequently served in the Sixth and Seventh companies also. He was called upon to perform a "love of duty in an ordinance of the Council, Aug. 1. 1780," according to the Penn. Archives.

Joseph Dickson came to Indiana in 1811, and cultivated land under the protection of Fort Harrison. A crop of corn was needed for the soldiers on the march to the Battle of Tippecanoe. He and his brother, John, and their families helped to defend Fort Harrison during the Indian attack in Nov. 1812.

In 1818, Joseph Dickson was chosen a justice of the peace, and registered his cattle mark with the county estray records. He sold a parcel of land in Terre Haute to James Cunningham for \$200 in 1819. The next year, Sept., 1820, there was a land transfer for "Joseph and his wife Sarah" for 60 acres to Benjamin Blackiston for \$500. In Aug., 1821, he sold 50 more acres to the same man for \$500.

A county history tells of the "little, old, first water-mill in the county, of Lambert and Dickson, on Honey Creek... a vast advance on the old stump and the horse mills that, in their slow and imperfect way, had furnished the people bread. As utterly trifling as this old mill would be now (book published in 1891) to the county, when it was washed away, not a great while after being built, it was a real calamity to the people in a wide stretch of county. This water mill was built in 1816." (Note: this was a year before Markel's Mill was built on Otter Creek.)

In the May, 1819 session of

court, the county commissioners ordered a road from Lambert & Dickson's mill to the house of Moses Evans, and thence to the southeast corner of Vigo County. Also at that court session, his son, John Dickson, was selected as petit juror for 1820.

One account named Mr. Dickson as an early settler of Vigo County, and said, "Certainly here was salt enough to preserve the good name the place always bore... one of those who have left their imprint upon the place."

In the five Vigo County histories, there are many references to Dickson and the mill. In 1823, Joseph Dickson served as a petit juror, and in 1824 was one of the ten men to serve at the first meeting of the board of justices.

He is supposed to have died in 1827, so we can suppose the

land transfers cited 1828 were ordered by his estate settlement or his son, Joseph. He was buried in Grave 3, Lot 114, Section 1, of Grandview Cemetery, Harrison Township, on the old Lockport Road on Jan. 12, 1827. His grave has a government marker.

His wife was listed as Elizabeth Hurst, and his children as John and Joseph in O'Byrne's Roster. He is not listed in the DAR Patriot Index.

LABAN HALL was born April 15, 1755, at Peekskill, N.Y. He served in the Revolutionary War as an enlisted man in the army and singed up while residing in Orange County, Vt., in 1775. He went to Quebec the year Montgomery was defeated by Capt. Abner Sely on a tour to Ticonderoga in 1776, and stayed 3 or 4 months. In 1777, he enlisted under Capt. Rosell in Col. Reid's regiment, and in March, 1778, marched to Portsmouth, N.H., served one year, and was discharged by Col. Reid in 1779. Proof of his military service is given in his Pension Claim S. 48852.

Laban Hall died Sept. 9, 1842 in the Watton Cottage on the Lafayette Road, in Otter Creek Township, on the township line, at the age of 87 years, and is buried near Otter Creek bridge in Otter Creek Union Cemetery, located in the northeast part of Section 35, Township 13 Range 9. Watton Cottage was supposed to have been built before 1833. His son, William Hall, had died there in 1840.

The DAR Patriot Index lists 13 men of the name Samuel Hall, but only one Laban Hall. A private from New Hampshire, he was listed as born Sept. 9, 1755; died Sept. 7, 1843; married first Olive Colton; married second Lucy Eddy; and married third, Marcy Daggett.

The late A. R. Markle, local

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historian, had always claimed that Laban Hall was buried in Scott's Cemetery, Fayette Township, near Shepardsville. Later research points out that it is the probable location of Hall's third wife's late husband. Mercy Daggett was the widow of Joseph Daggett, a Revolutionary soldier. The grave location was given as Grave 2, Lot 3, and the Scott Cemetery is located in the northeast part of Section 5, Township 13 Range 9 in Vigo County. At one time, there was a private upright marker, not a government marker.

An obituary in the WABASH COURIER dated Sept. 17, 1842 stated: "Death of a Revolutionary soldier! Died, at the residence of his son in Otter Creek Twp., Vigo County, on the 9th inst., Mr. Laban Hall, in the 87th year of his age. Mr. Hall was born at Peekskill, N Y., in 1755. He joined the American army at the age of 20 and passed through several years of the Rev. War in the service of his country. His remains were deposited, on Sunday last, in the Burying Ground near Otter Creek Bridge, with military honors; and in the presence of a large number of his fellow citizens and friends."

In 1961, the writer had correspondence with one of the descendants of Laban Hall. He was searching for information about any descendants of Abel D. Hall and Allen E. Hall, sons of Laban Hall. These men were living in Putnam Co. in 1850.

Recently a new government tombstone was dedicated at the grave. Ceremonies were sponsored by the SAR and a few of Hall's descendants.

Next months' column will tell of John Hamilton and the Hopkins twins.

Historically

Community Affairs File

Speaking

TS MAY 2 1976

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



Revolutionary Soldiers (T.H.)

Government records show that approximately 250,000 soldiers fought in the American Revolution. We can prove that 17 of them lie buried in Vigo County, and tradition has it that there are a few more. Born in far scattered places, they entered the army, fought for and would have died for that spiritual intangible thing — freedom. In maturity they sought for a new land where they might live in freedom and leave to their children that priceless heritage of freedom.

We can say of the Revolution soldiers buried in Vigo County what Abraham Lincoln said at Gettysburg. "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

JOHN HAMILTON was born in 1754. He enlisted in 1775 as a Second Lieutenant in the company of Capt. Benjamin Harrison of the 13th Virginia Regiment during the Revolutionary War, and served at Brandywine and Germantown when the British invaded the south. He was discharged in 1778.

Then, during the War of 1812, he became a Captain under Col. William Russell, of the 13th Virginia Regt. After that war, he became an Indian trader with his half-brother, James Reed, emigrating first to Butler County, Ohio, and later to Terre Haute.

We know Hamilton was in Terre Haute as early as 1818, as he was chosen one of the three Vigo County commissioners, and helped organize the county, build the first courthouse, and buy record books. He was present at the first meeting on May 13, and was paid two dollars a day for his services.

Vigo County Land Book 1 shows he made three purchases of land sold for taxes, 160 acres each at \$5.10 each. That's 480 acres for only \$15.30, and surely a bargain even in those days!

There are many references to John Hamilton in the county histories. On March 20, 1818 he signed a note. He took title to more land in November, and served as a grand juror in 1819. He served as surety on two estates, bought more land in Jan. 1821, and was named to settle the estate of pioneer Truman Blackman. He served on the first board of county commissioners until August, 1820, drawing the three-year term on March, 1818.

Earle's account lists Capt. John Hamilton as a "respectable farmer of Vigo County and early settler." Later references to John Hamilton in the county histories refer to his son, John Hamilton Jr., who married Lavina Scott on April 2, 1830.

John Hamilton died in 1822, and was buried in the Old Indian Orchard Burying Ground, to be taken up and reburied by his family when Woodlawn Cemetery was opened in 1834. The exact grave location is Grave 4, Lot 2, Block 4-B, Section 38.

Proof of his military service

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was found in Pension Claim S.36568. The DAR Patriot Index lists: "John Hamilton, born 1754; died Sept. 22, 1822; wife's name unknown; Lieut. of Virginia and received a pension." He received a pension in 1820 according to the records.

In the Act of 1818, John Hamilton was listed as Lieut. and 66 years old. This would have set his birth-date as 1752 instead of 1754. His government tombstone is inscribed: "John Hamilton, 2d Lieut., 13th Va. Regt., Rev. War, 1754-1822."

As recently as July 4, 1974, the Fort Harrison Chapter, DAR, placed a memorial wreath on his grave, which the Chapter had marked with dedicatory ceremonies when the white marble government marker was placed on July 4, 1958.

We know of one daughter, Mrs. Sarah E. Barkinbile, but nothing of any other children other than John Jr.

As far back as anyone can remember, local history has recorded the burial of two veterans of the Revolutionary War, the HOPKINSTWINS, in the Prairieton Cemetery, at Prairieton, Ind. Their given names are unknown.

According to the cemetery caretaker in 1953, the exact location of their graves was not known, but cemetery records mentioned the fact on the earliest plat map of the graveyard. The Prairieton Cemetery is located in the northeast part of Section 25 Township 11 Range 10 in Prairieton Township. One cemetery map shows the location of the graves in the Quaker section, but there has never been a marker placed there.

Vigo County court records of 1818 show that a Robert Hopkins and his wife, Sarah, sold 200 acres of land. The Hopkins family was mentioned as early settlers, in

the west part of Honey Creek Township. The daughter of Judge Robert Hopkins, Jemima Ann, married William W. Goodman in 1836.

Truman Blackman, Jeremiah Moat, Judge Hopkins and the Durhams settled on Honey Creek in 1817. Robert Hopkins recorded his "mark" in the 1819 estray records. He was listed as an early road viewer to assess damages to a road in Sugar Creek.

Daniel Thomas mentions the early Hopkins family in his 1816 Journal as being here "during the Indian uprising before 1812." County histories contain many references to Robert Hopkins, a few to Silas Hopkins, Dorothy Hopkins who was an executor of the estate of Caleb Hopkins in 1818, and Henry Hopkins.

There are three Revolutionary War veterans of the name Robert Hopkins listed in the DAR Patriot Index.

Elected as petit juror in 1820, Robert Hopkins was an associate judge of the circuit court in 1825. One source states, "To the court proceedings the signature of Hopkins is nearly a facsimile of that of the same surname to the Declaration of Independence." There are references to the man until 1829.

In my files, I have the genealogical correspondence of the late Mrs. Herbert Briggs. One of the letters from a member of the Dildine family tells that the daughters of Abram and Jemima Dildine married into the Hopkins family. Martha Dildine, born 1794, married a Hopkins in 1817.

Anyone having more definite information about the Hopkins twins, their given names, their families, and their military service or Quaker contributions, are invited to contact the writer.

Historically Community Affairs File Speaking

TS JUN 6 1976
By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Revolutionary Soldiers (VII)



At least 33 veterans of the American Revolution have some direct connection with the early years of Vigo County, Ind. Of this group, it is known where 20 of them are buried within the county. Of these 20, 16 have grave markers, eight furnished by the U.S. government, eight provided by the families or descendants. Six of the 33 veterans received government pensions in Vigo County.

Much information is still missing about these men. However, with a publishing date for the booklet "Revolutionary Soldiers of Vigo County" to be met, it was necessary to use available information. If much pertinent additional data comes in after publication, a revised second edition of the booklet will be published. Booklets are available from the Museum, Campbell's Book Store, and the compiler.

Very little is known about the Revolutionary War veteran, GOWAN JEFFRIES, born in 1756 in King and Queen County, Virginia. He enlisted from that county for three years as a fifer in the company of Capt. William Spiller, Col. Thomas Marshall's State Artillery Regiment. He was discharged at Richmond, Va., after General Gates' defeat.

From his Pension Claim S.32341, we know he moved to Indiana. He was listed in the Act of 1832, and was 76 years old in the Pension Report of 1835. This would have made his birthdate in 1759. When he applied for a pension from Vigo County his certificate number was 25326.

There is no mention of this man in any of the county histories. I could find only Amanda Jeffereys who married a farmer at Pimento, Ind., in 1847, and died in 1880. Could she have been a relative?

Did the man move on before his death, or did he die and was buried here in Vigo County? If so, where? Anyone having knowledge of this veteran of the Revolutionary War are invited to contact the writer.

Another veteran of the American Revolution of whom little is known is GEORGE JONES. We know he lived for a time in Vigo County, but not where he died or was buried.

There are five of the name George Jones in the DAR Patriot Index. He is listed in

O'Byrne's Roster, but in the Addenda, not accredited to Vigo County.

A George Jones recorded his "mark" in the estray records at the court house in 1818. In May, 1819, George Jones was elected as grand juror for the year 1820.

On the 4th of July, 1825, he attended the celebration in Otter Creek Township, and was honored as a hero of the Revolutionary War.

He was listed in the Act of 1828 as a pension claimant. On Jan. 21, 1830, he sold land in two transactions, and he was named an administrator of an estate of George Kirkwood.

According to Margaret Waters, well-known genealogist and researcher of Indianapolis, George Jones died on a trip east. One record says in Ohio, about Dec., 1834, and another says in New York, about March 11, 1835.

Anyone having further knowledge of George Jones is invited to contact the writer.

Revolutionary War veteran, JONATHAN KNIFFIN, was born in 1755 in New York. He served as a private in Col. Burch Brinkenhoff's Regular Militia in Dutchess County, N.Y., and guarded Fishkill's Landing from Oct. 12, 1779 to Oct. 26, 1780.

Jonathan Kniffin married Elizabeth Patience. The complete list of their children is not known, but we do know he had a daughter, Phoebe Kniffin, who married Caleb Crawford, of Vigo County.

It has been supposed the parents came to visit their daughter here, or maybe to make their home here, and Jonathan Kniffin died in 1817. His wife, Patience Kniffin, born in 1763, died in 1846, and was buried with her husband.

Later, when Highland Lawn Cemetery was opened, the family wished to have them removed from the abandoned first town burying ground, but nothing could be found of the remains of Jonathan. His wife was removed and reburied in Highland Lawn, and her grave is marked.

Jonathan Kniffin still lies buried in the Old Indian Orchard Burying Ground on Water Street where the Pillsbury Plant's visitor parking lot is now. A few years ago, on the 4th of July, a painted wooden sign was erected there and dedication ceremonies held by Fort Harrison Chapter DAR in his memory.

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Although not listed in O'Byrne's Roster, he is listed in the DAR Patriot Index.

WILLIAM McDANIEL was born in Scotland in 1732. In 1775 he was in Virginia, and enlisted as a private in Capt. Joseph Spencer's company, under Col. Alex McClenachan in the Seventh Virginia Regiment, three Scotsmen fighting England in the New World! That was April 19, 1775, before Paul Revere's famous ride.

He was discharged April 10, 1778, according to War Department records.

William McDaniel married Mary Duff Faed (or Fard), and their children were: Elizabeth, Harriette, George, Alemara and Aaron.

He died March 3, 1817, at the age of 85 years, and is buried in the McDaniel Cemetery located in the southwest part of Section 13, Twp. 11, Range 9, in Honey Creek Township. A government marble tombstone was dedicated at his grave last July 4th with ceremonies conducted by Fort Harrison Chapter DAR and the Riley American Legion.

So many of the old family burying grounds out in the county are rapidly disappearing in tangles of weeds and brush. Some have been plowed under, some strip-mined and totally destroyed. That is why it is so important to record these graves, copy the tombstone inscriptions, and place a government tombstone if there is none.

In a very little while, it will be only the printed page that will be left to tell posterity anything at all of these men who came and saw and conquered the Wabash Valley.

Next month's column will tell of Zenas and Jonas Mitchell and Ebenezer Padlock. The first Sunday of each month carries the continuing story of local Bicentennial Revolutionary War veterans during this Bicentennial year.

Historically Speaking

7s JUL 4 1976

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



The first settlers came to Vigo County in 1810, but it wasn't until after the War of 1812, sometimes called the Second Revolutionary War, was over that the real tide of emigrants began to pour in. Land in Vigo County was offered for sale at the Vincennes Land Office. The Indian problem was nearly solved, and the veterans of the War of 1812 (in many cases also veterans of the American Revolution 1776-83) returned to the older settlements and fully informed their friends and families about the new and beautiful country of the Wabash Valley.

Both Joseph Mitchell and Zenas Mitchell Sr. were among the honored guests who attended the 4th of July celebration in Otter Creek township in 1825 as heroes of the Revolutionary War.

The DAR Patriot Index lists two of the name Joseph Mitchell who died before 1825, and none of the name Zenas Mitchell. Neither man is listed in O'Byrne's Roster. Nor could I find mention of either of the veterans in the local histories.

In the 1820 Vigo County census there are seven Mitchell families listed in the same vicinity, some on neighboring farms. There was Zenus and his wife, over 45 years of age, and three children: William and his wife, under 45 years, with four children under ten; Azariah and Joseph were listed together, indicating son and father, or two brothers and their families (four adults and six children under one cabin roof); James and wife, under 26 years, had three small children; Elijah and wife, also with small children; and Robert and wife, with four children.

By the 1830 census, Zenas Mitchell and his wife were 60-70, and their household held nine more people. Azariah, Thomas, Erastus and Joseph were ten years older, so were their children. Joseph and his wife, about 70 years old, had no one else in their household.

A biography of John S. Mitchell, born 1814 in Ontario County, N.Y., was found which told of "his parents Zenas and Eleanor Race Mitchell. The father enlisted in the War of 1776 when 16 years old, serving until the close of the war. In 1816, he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, and engaged in the

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lumber business. In 1818, he went to Vigo County, Ind., and built the first mill while living in Fort Harrison. He moved on to Illinois territory."

Miss Margaret Waters, professional genealogist of Indianapolis, informed me that Zenas Mitchell was living in Harrison township, Vigo County, Ind., in 1826. His relative was Joseph, and they were supposed to be from Genesee County, N.Y.

The Illinois history tells how Zenas Mitchell moved to Coles County, Ill., when Illinois was a territory and celebrated statehood by lighting several tallow candles. Zenas Mitchell built the first saw and grist mill in Coles County and also built the first school house. In early life, he was an old-line Whig and was sent from his district to the state legislature. He was a strict Temperance man. His death was caused by a cyclone.

Mrs. Mitchell died in Vermillion County, Ill. They were the parents of nine children: Francis, John S., Joseph, Ira, Eli, Bradford, Orson, Louisa, and Diana, who married Col. Merrill.

If there is further knowledge of either Zenas or Joseph Mitchell, their Revolutionary War service, their burial places, etc., please contact the writer.

EBENEZER PADDOCK SR. was born in 1740 in Maryland. He served as a soldier at Fort Pitt for 142 days under Capt. David Rogers. Proof of this exists as his name appears on the payroll. His residence during the War was Augusta, Va.

About 1774, he married Keziah Case, probably in Washeo, Pa. Their children were: Henry, born 1775, who married Miriam Payne; William, born 1779, who married Sarah Waits; Ebenezer Jr., born 1783, who married Nancy Ferguson; Rhoda, born 1797, who married Jesse Rassel (or Rozzel); John, born 1802, who married first Leatha Ferguson, daughter of Athel Ferguson and a niece of the above named Nancy Ferguson, and married second Mary Thompson; Mary, who married Benjamin Harris; Rebecca, who married Elijah Payne, and second, Athol Ferguson; Sarah, who married James Thompson; and Rachel, who never married. Another source lists Samuel Paddock

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(1806-78) as another son of Ebenezer. He became a wealthy pork packer here.

Col. Ebenezer Paddock and his brothers, John and William, came to Vigo County from Ohio in 1817 or 1818, and were among the first settlers along the old Army Road in Prairie Creek township. One source stated, "A large family of descendants came of these three brothers. The Colonel was one of the prominent men of the county, and all were noted as men of public spirit and enterprise in developing the resources of the new country."

Signatures of Ebenezer Paddock Sr. and Jr. were found as witnesses on a will dated 1819. Junior was chosen a petit juror in 1819. References in county histories after 1830, and some prior to that date, refer to Junior, but I include them for their interest in local history. One of them served as a county commissioner in 1827. On Feb. 15, 1830, Ebenezer Paddock married Amanda Shattuck. He was county commissioner when the first little courthouse was completed 1832-3, and on June 13, 1868, when it was abandoned by the courts and used only as a meeting place, Ebenezer Paddock was nominated for the office of county commissioner by the Democratic Party.

Ebenezer Paddock Sr. died in Vigo County about 1830, and was buried in New Harmony Cemetery located in Section 3, Twp. 10, Range 10, in Prairieton township. For some reason, he is not listed in O'Byrne's Roster, but some of his descendants are members of DAR. Goodness knows, many more are eligible.

Next month's column will tell of Joshua Patrick, Moses Pierson and Ethan Pomeroy.

Historically Is AUG 1 1976 Speaking

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Restoration of Soldiers (T.H.)



On the first Sunday of each month in 1976, the historical column is devoted to the subject of the veterans of the Revolutionary War who had some connection with Vigo County.

These veterans did not need big 320-acre farms. They did well to manage 40 acres of the virgin soil and the ever-encroaching primeval forest. In the wilderness they settled, built log cabins, fought the dangers of the elements, wild animals and Indians, reared their families, who in turn married neighbors, reared families, built log cabins, schools and churches. Each generation built on the old a better way of living, better schools, churches and roads. Some of these Revolutionary veterans left little record behind them, while others made their footprints on the page of history here.

JOSHUA PATRICK was born Feb. 2, 1762, at Vollen-town, Connecticut. He enlisted as a fifer in the militia under Capt. Josiah Gibbs in 1776, and served four months. He later served as a substitute for several men. In January, 1777, he served as a private for three months under Capt. Moses Branch. Again he served as a substitute for two months.

He was present at the surrender of Burgoyne, and later joined Sheldon's Light Horse Brigade in New York in 1780. He was in service at Fort Edward, Fort Ann and Fort George during 1781 and 1783.

Proof of his military service was found in Pension Claim S.32431. He was discharged Feb. 3, 1781, according to O'Byrne's Roster.

Joshua Patrick died Jan. 12, 1842, aged 81 years, 10 months, 17 days, and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery at Terre Haute. His obituary in the WABASH COURIER of Jan. 15 gives some conflicting details of his life.

Captioned "Another Soldier Gone," the account states: "Died, at the residence of his son in Prairieton, Vigo County, on the 10th inst., Mr. Joshua Patrick, a soldier of the Revolution, in the 82d year of his age."

"Mr. Patrick was born in Connecticut, in 1760; entered the Army in 1775, and was stationed at Greenwich, R.I. He afterwards joined Capt. Thompson's company, and was in the battle and surrender of Gen. Burgoyne. In 1778, he was in the battle of

Rhode Island, was afterwards stationed at Fort Griswold, and in 1780, joined Sheldon's Light Horse in the State of New York, and in 1781-82 and 83, was in service at Forts Ann, Edwards, George, etc. He settled in Detroit about the commencement of the late war. He joined Capt. Smith's company for the protection of Detroit, and was in the battle at Brownstown on the 2d of August, 1812, under VanHorn, and in the battle at the same place Aug. 9th, commanded by Col. Miller; and there was wounded, and lost the use of his left hand. He was afterwards surrendered by Hull to the British, put on board the Brig Adams, and retaken by the Americans at Fort Erie."

"Mr. Patrick was the father of Dr. Patrick, of Terre Haute. On the morning of Wednesday last, the muffled drum announced the funeral, led by Capt. Hickox's troop of cavalry, and Capt. Babbit's Infantry—all in solemn procession, marched through our streets to the Congregational Church, where a sermon, suitable to the occasion, was delivered by the Rev. M. A. Jewett. After which, the procession, with the remains of the deceased, advanced in military order, to the place of interment, at the new Burying Ground, half a mile north of Town, where the soldier of two wars now reposes in quietness and peace."

Joshua Patrick is buried near the circle, grave 8, lot 9, block 22, section 47, and his grave is marked with a white marble government tombstone.

His son, Dr. Septer Patrick, was probably his only son to come to Indiana. Anyone having further knowledge of this Revolutionary War veteran is invited to contact the writer.

MOSES PIERSON was born June 9, 1765, in Somerset County, N.J. Little has been proven about this veteran of the Revolution. One county history states that he was the first settler of Pierson Township and that the township was named for him.

Another history states that Moses Pierson was a Baptist preacher. His brother, Willis Pierson, also a preacher, came to this county with him, and they were the earliest settlers in what is now Pierson Twp., coming in 1820. In 1822, they organized the Union Baptist Church, the first in the

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Southeastern part of Vigo County.

The family name of Moses was carried down in the family for generations, making it difficult to sort out which one was the son or father of whom.

Moses Pierson's daughter, Mary, born in 1801, was the only child of Moses and Dorcas (Taylor) Pierson still living in 1880. She married a Mr. Foxworthy in 1823 at Pimento, Ind. Moses Pierson Jr., son of Moses and Dorcas, was born in 1805 in Spencer County, Ky. He married Mary Liston in 1826 and had 12 children before his death in 1845.

According to pension records, Moses Pierson enlisted in Somerset County, N.J., probably in the summer of 1778, under Capt. Henry Southard. He applied for pension Feb. 10, 1834, aged 69 years, in Vigo County, and died a few days later. He is not listed in the DAR Patriot Index, O'Byrne's Roster, nor in the Vigo County Cemetery Records. Where is this Revolutionary veteran buried? Anyone having knowledge of this family is invited to contact the writer.

ETHEN POMEROY was born in 1744 in Hadley, Mass. He married Esther Parsons in 1774, but a complete line of his children is not known. One daughter, Celinda Pomeroy, was born in 1779, and married a Mr. Cherry.

According to the Pomeroy family genealogy, he served as a Sergeant in Capt. Samuel Cook's company, Col. Woodbridge's Massachusetts Regiment, for three months, 21 days. He is listed in the DAR Index and O'Byrne's Roster. The problem is the place of burial. Records show he died in 1825 in Terre Haute. If this is true, he was undoubtedly buried in the Old Indian Orchard Burying Ground, as Woodlawn Cemetery was not opened until 1834.

There is no record of his body being taken up and reburied at Woodlawn when the old cemetery was abandoned, so it is likely his remains are lying under the Pillsbury Plant's visitor parking lot along with other Revolutionary veterans.

Next month's column will tell of William Ray, Daniel Rhoads and Thomas Sample.

Historically Community Affairs File Speaking

TS SEP 5 1976
By DOROTHY J. CLARK



Soldiers, Vigo Co.
Six officers of the Revolutionary War have left their mark on Vigo County, Indiana. They are Lt. John Hamilton, Lt. William Ray, Lt. Jacob Coleman, Col. Ebenezer Paddock, Capt. Daniel Stringham and General John Thomas.

Three men born in the Old World fought for freedom and earned land for themselves in the New World. They were William McDaniel from Scotland, the above-mentioned William Ray from Ireland, and Benjamin Siner from England.

WILLIAM RAY was born in Belfast County, Ireland, on Nov. 26, 1740. He enlisted in 1775, after the Battle of Bunker Hill, in "Mad Anthony" Wayne's company of Pennsylvania Regulars.

He became a Lieutenant in 1777 during the winter of the terrible cold and privations of Valley Forge. He was discharged in 1779. Proof of his military service is found in Pension Claim S 32470.

William Ray married Ann Brown, and their children were William II, John, the Rev. Robert, Josa, Elizabeth, Sarah, Martin M., Governor James Brown Ray, Jane, Polly and Mary Etta.

After the War, Ray wandered about in Ohio, Kentucky, then north into Indiana. He and his wife, two sons with their families, and a daughter came into what is now Riley Township, Vigo County, Indiana, about 1817 on horseback and settled near the south line of the present township on 80 acres.

First, they built a stockade in the forest to protect themselves and their livestock from the Indians and wolves until they could build log cabins. A grandson of this Irish veteran of the Revolution was one of the first three children born in Riley township.

The Ray family members were among the pioneers who made Vigo County what it is today. They were active in every movement for the good of the land, and are still prominent here.

One of his sons, James Brown Ray, was Governor of the State of Indiana from 1825 until 1832. His son, William II, was a veteran of the War of 1812.

William Ray died July 28, 1840, aged 99 years and 8 months. He was buried in the

Old Ray Burying Ground located in the northeast part of Section 19, Township 11, Range 8, Riley Township, in Grave 1, Lot 3. A white marble marker furnished by the United States government was placed at the gravesite.

A few years ago, on the 4th of July, memorial services were held at the grave sponsored by the local veteran's groups, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Sons of the American Revolution. Descendants from all over the country attended the ceremonies.

DANIEL RHOADS was born Oct. 5, 1755, and died April 8, 1838. He married first Eva Foust, and secondly, Elizabeth Newman.

He served as a private soldier from Pennsylvania, and received a pension. Listed in the Act of 1818, he appeared again in the Pension Report of 1835, aged 79 years. He is listed in the DAR Patriot Index.

O'Byrnes' Roster states he left Vigo County and died in Edgar County, Illinois. That may be so, but his body must have been brought back here for burial. He lies buried in Pispah Cemetery, Grave 1, Lot 114, in the northeast part of Section 4, Township 12, Range 10, in Sugar Creek Township.

Anyone having further information about him is invited to contact the writer.

Whether or not Vigo County can claim Revolutionary War veteran THOMAS SAMPLE (SEMPLE) is still a question. He was born June 22, 1746, and married Margaret (last name unknown) who was 55 years old in 1818. Nothing is known of any children.

He served as a private in the South Carolina Line, enlisting in the Spring of 1777 under Capt. John Baugh in the Second or Third South Carolina Regiment, under Colonel Hughes.

He enlisted again at the White Horse in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in the First Pennsylvania Regiment under Colonel James Chambers and Captain James Wilson.

His Pension Record S.36750 shows he applied for a pension in Gibson County, Indiana, in 1818 and 1820, but is on the 1835 Pension List for Vigo County. O'Byrne's Roster states he took part in the battles of Stony Point, and was

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discharged at Jockey Holler,
New Jersey.

If he was 87 years old on the
1835 Pension Report, his death
must have occurred after that
year. Where is he buried? Who
are his descendants? Anyone
having information is invited
to contact the writer.

Next month's column will
tell of Benjamin Siner and
Daniel Soesbe...

—Historically Speaking—

Clark, Dorothy

By Dorothy Clark

Community Affairs File Vigo County Pioneer, Soldier Profiled

TS MAY 8 1977

Revolutionary Soldiers (TH)



We're always delighted when new information comes in on people, places and events of local history to add to our knowledge. Just recently more information came in on the family of John Hamilton, Revolutionary soldier and early Vigo County pioneer.

A descendant living in Dallas, Texas, sent in several pages of notes he had compiled on the Revolutionary War veteran who was an early settler of Terre Haute and lies buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, the city's oldest cemetery.

John Hamilton was born in 1754 in Virginia. Family tradition and DAR records disagree as to whether it was Norfolk or Augusta county, but at least it was in southwestern Virginia. His wife's name was Mary, maiden name unknown.

Toward the end of 1775, he enlisted in the Continental Army service in Virginia. He brought a group of recruits to Pittsburgh in 1776, where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on Dec. 16, in Capt. Benjaimin Harrison's Company, 13th Virginia Regiment Continental Line, commanded by Col. William Russell.

This regiment marched to Philadelphia in 1777, arriving in June, where it participated in engagements at the River of Elk and the battles of Brandywine and Germantown.

In 1778, the regiment made several excursions against the Indians in "western country." On Sept. 14, 1778, the regiment was designated the 9th Virginia.

John Hamilton resigned from the service due to fatigue on Nov. 23, 1778, then holding a Captain's Commission.

After the war, he moved to Allegheny County, near Pittsburgh, Pa., where he engaged in trade with the Indians. He spoke five Indian dialects. At one time he was in partnership with his half-brother, James Reed, who died in 1800.

Records show that he received 2,666 acres of land for his service during the Revolution. Whether or not he occupied this land at any time is not known.

In 1789, he and his family moved to Cincinnati, in Hamilton County, Ohio. Later they moved to Butler County, Ohio. In 1816, he moved to Terre Haute, along with some of his children and their families, and

bought lots at the original land sale on Oct. 30-31, 1816.

He sold his farm for \$14,000, but was defrauded of the money and he applied for a pension May 24, 1818. On Jan. 15, 1820, he was placed on the pension roll. His service record is detailed in File No. S-36568, National Archives.

At his death on Sept. 22, 1822 in Terre Haute, John Hamilton was buried in Old Indian Orchard Burying Ground. When Woodlawn Cemetery was first opened in 1838-9, his body was reinterred there, just south of the main entrance in an unmarked grave.

One hundred and twenty years later, Fort Harrison Chapter DAR located the grave, and obtained a white marble tombstone from the U.S. Government. On the Fourth of July, 1958, a ceremony was held dedicating the new grave marker which reads: "John Hamilton, 2nd Lt., 13th Va. Regt., Rev. War, 1754-1822."

Children of John and Mary Hamilton were: James, William, John Jr., Mary, Rawley and Sarah E.

James Hamilton, born in 1779 in Pennsylvania, owned land in Butler County, Ohio in 1801. In May, 1816, he was at or near Natchez, Mississippi, and was living at Memphis, Tenn., in 1830.

William Hamilton, born 1781 in Pennsylvania, died in Vermillion County, Ind., in 1846. He married first in 1815, Margaret Pierce; second, July 9, 1828, Gulielema Bailey at Terre Haute. After 1818, he lived in Vermillion County and had several children including William Jr. and Fanny. William Jr.'s daughter, Della, married Frank Gosnell, and had Robert, Emma, Lloyd R., Esther and Wayne H., all of Terre Haute. Fanny married and lived in Kansas City, Mo.

John Hamilton Jr., born 1783, died Dec. 1, 1836 (see next week's column).

Mary Hamilton, born 1785 in Pennsylvania, married Robert Nelson and died in 1819. She had a son, James, whose descendants lived in Terre Haute.

Rawley, born about 1787 in Pennsylvania, married Ed Delk on Feb. 19, 1822. Their one son, John Delk, married Bertha Eden, but there were no children.

Sarah E. Hamilton, born

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March 15, 1789, died April 7, 1874 in Chicago. She married first, in 1812, Richard Jaques. Her second marriage in 1831 was to James Bissex. Her third marriage was to Christopher Barkenbile who moved to Terre Haute in 1816 and on to Chicago in 1834.

In 1852, she said under oath that she was the only heir at law of Capt. John Hamilton, deceased, which would imply that all of his other children were then deceased. She was applying for some money due him as a pensioner.

In another letter related to this matter, Mrs. Sarah Hamilton Barkenbile said that John Hamilton was an "own cousin of the great Alexander Hamilton." Later investigation indicated that a relationship closer than third cousin was not possible.

Sarah's descendants included John W. Jaques by her first marriage, a grandson of the Revolutionary War soldier, John Hamilton.

Indians wiped out family of Irishman Capt. Shannon

Pioneers (WV) JUL 21 1985

Born in Ireland, Capt. William Shannon immigrated to America and settled in Virginia sometime after 1765. He was married before 1769, for the family Bible lists his children and their birthdates as Elizabeth 1770, Mary 1775, Sarah 1777, William 1779, Nancy 1781 and Margaret 1782.

Capt. Shannon had served as adjutant and paymaster for Gen. George Rogers Clark's army. The official records show large sums of money authorized by Clark and drafts issued to Shannon in Clark's account against Virginia.

The Shannon family left Virginia and came to Illinois. Their cabin was built on the Illinois side of the Wabash River near the old wagon bridge at the foot of the main street of Vincennes.

One day, 12-year-old Elizabeth took her 5-year-old sister Sarah across the river in a skiff to do some trading at the Old Post. Mary, the 7-year-old, looked out the window and saw Indians creeping up through the woods along the river bank.

Mary cried in French: "The Indians, the Indians," as she ran from the cabin to a skiff to cross the river to the fort for help. Since she was dressed as a French girl, and spoke in French, the Indians allowed her to escape, but when help arrived, the rest of the family had been massacred and the cabin set on fire. Later, the body of Capt. Shannon was found where he had been slain while at work in the forest.

Only the three girls, Elizabeth, Sarah and Mary, escaped the murderous attack of the Indians. Father Gibault took charge of the

Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

orphans and found homes for them with families of his parish.

In later years, Elizabeth Shannon married Col. Francis Vigo, the patriot who gave his entire fortune that Gen. George Rogers Clark might to successful in his campaigns during the Revolutionary War.

Col. Vigo's cabin had six rooms — two on the ground floor, two in the loft, and two below ground level. A log shed along the west side of the cabin sheltered the cistern and the cellar way. This shed was later floored with brick, and the cellar cemented. Heavy shutters for the doors and windows could be closed quickly in case of Indian attacks.

Elizabeth and her patriot husband had no children, but helped care for her many nieces and nephews. Mary Shannon married Robert Buntin and had several children. Sarah Shannon married Dr. Samuel McKee, an army surgeon stationed at Fort Knox about 1800.

Their two sons, Francis Vigo McKee born 1806 and Archibald

Buntin McKee born 1809, survived their parents. Dr. McKee died in 1811 in Virginia, and his widow died in 1819.

Francis Vigo McKee married a Sullivan County girl. They had one child, Amanda McKee, who married John Turner of Sullivan County, and died childless.

McKee went to Texas after his wife's death where he married again and died leaving a family, among them Josiah and William.

Archibald Buntin McKee was 2 years old when his father died, and only 10 at the death of his mother. He was taken to Kentucky by an uncle as a bound boy. He received his early education there, but ran away when he was 14 and returned to Vincennes. There he learned the jeweler's trade as his life's work.

After a stormy courtship McKee eloped with his southern sweetheart Julia Ann Smith in 1831. She was the youngest daughter of Daniel and Mary (Sturgis) Smith of Johnson Township. They were wealthy slaveholders and disapproved of the marriage because of his poor prospects. The young couple lived with his Aunt Lizzie and Uncle Francis Vigo at Vincennes.

The family of Archibald and Julia included: Samuel Vigo, Mary E., Nancy Amanda, Sarah, Daniel Newton, Robert Shannon, Archibald Sturgis, Ellen and Dorcas L. McKee.

The Shannon family history gains even greater interest and historical importance because of the marriage of Elizabeth with Col. Francis Vigo.

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Sheets vital to settling city, establishing Fort Harrison

Ts AUG 16 1987

Several descendants of early pioneer John Sheets still live in the Wabash Valley area. He came from Holland to North Carolina before the Revolutionary War, moving to Shenandoah County, then to Rockingham County, Va., where he served as a private in the Virginia troops during the war.

In the Virginia land survey of 1782, Sheets was listed as one of the largest land holders. His son, also named John, was born in Virginia in 1790.

In the spring of 1809, young John married a widow, Mary Wood, who had a year-old-son, Benjamin. The wedding took place in the late afternoon and all the neighbors helped celebrate, eating and dancing until the wee hours of the morning.

John loaded all of his belongings, his new bride, and the tiny baby he later adopted, into an ox cart and started for the West. Their destination was what they called "the Wabash country."

He walked the entire distance from Rockingham County, Va., leading the ox while his family rode in the cart. When the jolting cart became too tiresome, and the baby was sleeping, Mary would walk beside him.

Roads were passable until they reached the middle of what is now Indiana, about where Indianapolis now is located. From there to the Wabash River there were only Indian trails. Quite often he had to cut down small saplings in order to get around the larger trees in the dense forest.

When they arrived at their destination in the fall of 1809, they found a small settlement of about six families living in small log cabins near the Wabash River bank at what is now the west end of Margaret Avenue.

John Sheets and his family were living in this small settlement (known as Old Terre Haute), when Gen. William Henry Harrison dispatched 50 soldiers on foot from Vincennes by way of Indian trails with instructions to ask any settlers they might find in the vicinity to volunteer to join them for purposes of erecting a fort, or, as

Historically speaking



Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

they called it, a stockade.

When the soldiers reached Old Terre Haute, John Sheets volunteered to help build the stockade, later named Fort Harrison. The site chosen for this fort was about two miles north of where the City of Terre Haute later was built.

The Elks Club now occupies this site, which commands a view up and down the Wabash River. Today the view is enjoyed for itself, but 175 years ago the advantage of seeing Indians before they saw you was necessary if you intended to keep your scalp.

According to the Sheets family history, after dispatching the 50 soldiers on foot from Vincennes, Gen. Harrison embarked on flatboats with his remaining soldiers and equipment. They proceeded up the Wabash by poling the boats forward.

By the arrival of Harrison and his flotilla, the small advance guard of soldiers and recruits became restless after completing the stockade. Eleven soldiers were left in charge, and the rest of the men proceeded upriver, crossing it about two miles north of the stockade to the west bank and proceeded northward where they erected a second stockade which was later named Fort Tecumseh. This second stockade was located about opposite where Montezuma, Ind., is now. Here they waited for the arrival of Harrison and his army.

John Sheets told how Gen. Harrison caused bastions to be erected

at all four corners of the stockade so the soldiers could enter them and have a clear view of all four outer walls of the fort, insuring against future attacks.

This statement only confuses historians further as to whether there were two, three or four bastions at old Fort Harrison. But Sheets was there, and this was the story he told his grandson, John Waller, who wrote the family history. This account was placed in the growing archives of the Harrison Trail Commission.

Following the Battle of Tippecanoe, Harrison and his soldiers returned to Fort Harrison where they stayed briefly. During this stay, according to Sheets, a blockhouse was erected at the southwest corner of the stockade. It was built of hewn or squared logs, notched at either end and laid upon one another like log cabins were built.

The soldiers returned to Vincennes, but John Sheets remained at home. He was a volunteer in the War of 1812 and fought in the Battle of the River Thames where Tecumseh was slain. Sheets became well acquainted with the Indian chief when he had eaten with his family during trips up and down the Wabash River.

While Sheets served in the War of 1812, his family lived at Fort Harrison. He resumed his trade as a trapper when he returned. In 1818 he settled in lower Sugar Creek Township, Vigo County.

After enjoying "squatter's rights," he entered and purchased this land from the government. In 1819 he installed a ferry across the river which he operated until about 1831 when Joseph Malcom was granted a license for a public ferry over the Wabash. This was later purchased by a man named Cox and became known as Cox's Ferry on the site of what was to be the Dresser Power Plant.

John Sheets' ferry went out of commission as it was farther up river, and was not as convenient as Cox's Ferry.

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